Introduction of Smart Card Scheme.

†665. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Smart Card Scheme intended to provide kerosene to the families living under BPL;

(b) in which States this project is going to be started and how it will be useful for the consumers;

(c) what provisions have been taken made to ensure that kerosene does not reach to black market through oil dealers and only targeted people should get it; and

(d) whether Smart Card Scheme will be able to stop the black marketing of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targets consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis in three districts-Latur in Maharashtra, Nalanda in Bihar and Nainital in Uttaranchal in 2007. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot. Under the Smart Card Scheme, Smart Cards would be issued to the BPL card holders, to ensure that the subsidized PDS kerosene is delivered to BPL families only. The beneficiaries *i.e.* BPL families will be identified by the district authorities. The Smart Card Scheme is expected to help contain the black marketing of kerosene and also its diversion for adulteration. However, based on the suggestions received from the State Governments of Maharashtra and Bihar, the Government is reviewing the implementation of the Smart Card Scheme.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.